Accepting Pay Cuts - Nurses and Transport Workers hold out

Solidarity with the CNT-AIT

Meanwhile in Ballymena: Stop Whitehead Oil Termnial

BLACK STAR

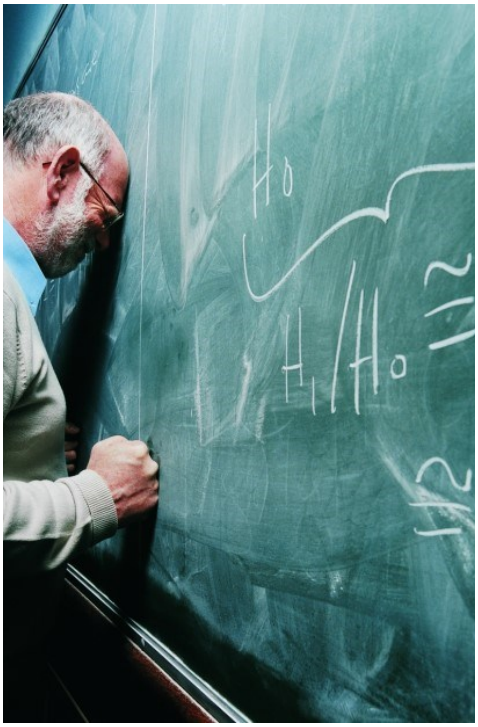
KILL CAPITALISM

BEFORE IT KILLS US

Over 34,000 people (33,091 Palestinian and 1,410 Israeli) have been reported killed in the genocidal war against Palestine as of the 8th of April. In the Ukraine the Office for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in their March 2024 report gives 10,582 dead civilians, the total Russian and Ukraine troop casualties are officially secret but estimated as around half a million. 10,000,000 Ukrainians have been displaced. Meanwhile homeless people continue to die on our streets amidst a government made housing crisis north and south. The NHS has been cut to the extent that it is not fit for purpose with untold numbers dying on waiting lists. Stormont MLAs have recently voted to kick the scrapping of the two child benefits cap down the road. Back over St. Patrick's day 'our' joint First Ministers Were jollying about with some cut throat capitalist enterprises in the USA, including many profiting from the war on Palestine.

What do all these issues have in common? A global capitalist system that has imperialist war and expansion hardwired into it bent on profit over a growing pile of what it sees as disposable lives. Kill capitalism before it kills us all.

Teaching unions cave



The Northern Ireland Teachers' Council, which represents all of the biggest teaching unions here, has agreed not only to end its pay dispute for this year and accept the government's offer of 10.4% for the last 3 years (1%, 5% and 4.1%), but signalled that this marks the end of all industrial action even before negotiations have concluded for this year!

Teachers might be surprised to hear the five big union bosses all making such a grand gesture of surrender on their behalf and obviously without any consultation, but it has, of course, been roundly welcomed by Education Minister, Paul Givan.

Accepting pay cuts

Unfortunately teachers are not on their own, other unions are steering their members towards the pay cuts disguised as pay increases they have been calling out for two years now. NIPSA is pushing members in the HSE to accept the Department of Health's offer of 5% while recognising that civil servants in the North have seen their pay reduced by around 30% in the last decade.

Union boss, Carmel Gates, said the 5% was the first above inflation pay rise in years, but this is based on the Consumer Prices Index inflation figures for last month of 4%, while real inflation, based on what is known as 'Core Inflation', was over 5% last month. UNISON NI members also accepted with failed SDLP councillor turned regional UNISON officer, Brenda Stevenson, calling it 'a tremendous win'.

The nurses, however, rejected the offer which failed again to meet the central demand for pay parity with Britain and the Royal College of Nursing have pledged to fight on. Thankfully, they are not yet completely on their own and transport workers rejected the magic 5% as well.

Further Education lecturers have broken past the 5% with a 8.4% pay rise (after two years of imposed 1% 'rises') and still no parity with teachers and with no payment for extra duties. Following the recommendation from both the UCU and NASUWT to accept all strike action was ended 16th April.

Just Books Publishing

Just Books Publishing, set up by the Just Books Collective, has so far published its first two titles.

The first is a reprint of Gregori Maximoff's *Constructive Anarchism*, to mark the 100th year of existence of the International Workers Association (IWA) the Anarcho-Syndicalist international founded in Berlin in 1922.

isbn 9781739723705

£7.99

The second title, now with a new cover, is Nick Heath's *The Idea. Anarchist Communism: Past, Present and Future* - a welcome and new comprehensive work on anarchist communism, this book seeks to rehabilitate the current of anarchist-communism. To make it better known and understood.

...a good substantial book, and much needed. Lucidly written, it provides a rich brew of engaging discussions of the 'Idea' (anarchist communism as a political philosophy), interesting vignettes of many individual anarchists, and a great historical account of the many anarchist communist organisations over the past 150 years... (Brian Morris on *The Idea)*

isbn 9781739723712

£15.00

Available from:

https://organiseanarchistsireland.com/shop/

SOLIDARITY with the CNT-AIT

Organise! stand with the International Workers Association in solidarity with the CNT-AIT, the international's section in the Spanish state. All genuine anarchists should be demanding that the section of the International Confederation of Labour in Spain, the CNT-CIT, end its persecution of anarcho-syndicalists through the instruments of the state.

Below is a statement from the General Secretary of the IWA:

Again this year, the whole of the International Workers' Association stand in solidarity with our Section in Spain, the CNT-AIT. The unions of the CNT-AIT face the repressive and vindicative actions of the union now known as CNT-CIT. The lawsuits and legal actions brought by the Spanish Section of the CIT, or ICL (International Confederation of Labor) threaten the CNT-AIT with serious financial loss and, for some members, even time in prison.

The situation has not changed since last year when we wrote this article: https://vivacntait.iwa-ait.org/iwa-days-of-solidarity-with-the-cnt-ait-s...

We explain that the changes that took place in the CNT, particularly over the past 15 years meant that a group of individuals who were both theoretically and practically inclined against the grassroots, non-hierarchical, internationalism of the CNT-AIT, based on revolutionary ideas and practices in line with anarcho-communism and anarcho-syndicalism, tried to re-fashion the organization to support clientele unionism and the professionalization of the organization, including financially profiting from the union's legacy. In order to achieve these goals, there was a period where the „reformers" spearheaded a number of purges from the organization, most infamously of those who exposed corruption or criticized these tendencies. At the same time, it sought to take control over the International Workers' Association and disenfranchise many of its member organizations. The results of all this were the exclusion from the IWA (as a consequence of their own auto-exclusionary actions) and the decision of part of our Section in Spain to remain the CNT-AIT, not to reform the CNT based on hierarchical practices and not to start a new international based on ideas that ran against the egalitarian traditions of the IWA.

For daring to criticize the turn in the CNT-CIT and remain the CNT-AIT, for daring to continue union activity in the same way they have done for decades, many unions of the CNT-AIT were attacked with crippling lawsuits, with attempts to take away the premises that local activists spent so much money and energy to maintain over the years. The consequences of which might mean that a few comrades even face prison time.

The International Workers Association continue to call out this behaviour – trying to repress unions that don't agree with it, to create hegemony of the CNT-CIT and using the state as a instrument to destroy unions as something completely out of line with anarcho-syndicalism. These actions render that international association a dangerous false friend of any people fighting to create free unions and replace the repression of the state with voluntary association and self-management.

Again we demand that these attacks on our comrades stop and we criticize those who continue to immorally encourage the CNT-CIT in their indefensible actions.

General Secretary
IWA

Meanwhile... in Ballymena, Take your oil!

Cloughan Point near Whiteheid is a wee bit of a dander from Ballymena, but it's the local council here who've been handed back the go-ahead for expanded oil storage facilities there. The local planning committee, including some hardcore unionists, agreed in 2022 to an expansion of the plant used to store emergency supplies for the Republic of Ireland. However, the activities of local environmental protest group, Stop Whitehead Oil Terminal, 'persuaded' the council to refer it to Stormont. Fast-forward a couple of years and Infrastructure Minister, John 'Lurch' O'Dowd, has batted it back to our wee council to sign off on. Hopefully, the protests roll on against Free State fossil fuels or any other kind. I'm on the phone to wee Greta as soon as she gets out of Dutch police custody!

Get Involved: Help Build A Working Class Alternative.

ORGANISE!

FRIENDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION · AMIGOS DE LA ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LAS Y LOS TRABAJADORES

WWW.ORGANISEANARCHISTSIRELAND.COM

Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland which as affiliated to the International Worker's Association as 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, and particularly the history and tradition of struggle epitomised by the IWA - the anarcho-syndicalist international. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier…

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Lisburn, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at https://organiseanarchistsireland.com and send an email to:

organiseasi@gmail.com